GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:793
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2015
Promotion/Regulation of UGC
Rai Shri Prem Das;Ram Mohan Naidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

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(a) Whether the Government has undertaken any scheme/programme to promote and regulate underground coal gasification (UGC) and if so, the details thereof;
(b) Whether any pilot study on viability of UGC in Indian Geology and its development has been carried out and if so the details and results thereof;
(c) Whether the Government has set up a regulatory body for allocation of blocks and setting guidelines for production of syngas obtained through UGC; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a):No sir.

(b) : A pilot project was taken up by Coal India Limited (CIL)/Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd (CMPDIL) under Science & Technology Plan in August 1987 for ascertaining feasibility of Merta Road Lignite Deposit which could not be pursued further on the apprehensions of ground water contamination. For development of Underground Coal Gasification (UCG), a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Coal India Limited in November, 2005 to cooperate in the service, operation, process development, and research related to UCG development. Under this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Kasta West block in Raniganj Coal field was identified for demonstration/pilot project for UCG development. Some exploratory data generated by CMPDI for this block was handed over to ONGC for examination by Soviet experts appointed by ONGC for this purpose.

(c)& (d): Government has not set up any regulatory body for allocation of coal block for production of syngas.